W150

THE VOICE of the JUST Uttered:

His passing out of Egypt through the Red Sea: through the Wilderness to the Promised Land where rest and Peace is injoyed.

Many false Spirits are entered into the World, who are seen, tryed, and found out with the light of Christ, although it they oppose, and seek to darken with all their dark powers.

Yet Christs Voyce a torment is to the unclean Spirits, known of them but not followed, his sheep hear his voyce, and they follow him in the strait and narrow way through tribulations, trialls, and persecutions, which is embraced of all those that dwell in the light, and so come to the inheritance, the Crown of life.

I Being quiet and still in my habitation, feeding upon the bread of life, knowne and injoyed in the light of life, the former dealings of the Lord was brought to my remembrance, and in love to the soule of men & women I am made to publish and make knowne these things which follow, which cannot be hid, for the command to me is, what is revealed to thee in secret, that preach thou on the house tops, and what is made knowne unto thee in thy closet, that publish abroad and let my secrets to thee be no longer hid, the candle of the Lord being lighted in me, searching me from the begining, and shewing me the sins of my youth, & now knowing that when I had committed sinn in my youth, the light of Christ in my conscience discovered it, and reproved me ever since the time of my being a child, but I not knowing where to wait ran from place to place, from one man to another, who had the greatest name in godliness & profession of holyness, but Phisitians they were of no value, sometimes I found them daubing as it were with untempered morter, and would have healed that which was to be cut and wounded, and bruised the head of the serpent while it stood, acted I was in wickedness, and so from day to day, I went under

a wounded ſpirit, which made me cry day and night by prayer to the Lord as I thought to be at a diſtance from me, and Chriſt that had enlightned me with his light which was then preſent with me to let me ſee my condition, and wounded Eſtate, that I would not own for my guide, this condition I contiuned in till about eighteene years of age, and then much calling and crying out there was of the Prieſts of thoſe time, (whom I delighted to hear) to goe forth into the war, to help the Lord againſt the mighty, when I knew none mightyer in me then ſin, hearkning to their cry, I entred into the war without me, thinking thereby to be beloved of God for my forwardneſs in that work, and the war within me did ſomewhat ceaſe but not wholly, for I found the ſearcher of all hearts the light of Chriſt in me condemning and reproving me in ſecret, and often when I have been to engage with my enemies without me, my ſins have been ſet in order before me, which hath made me even to faint before them, but the reſolvelneſs in me, and the juſtneſs of my cauſe as I thought carried me on to encounter; but this brought not my enemies within me to the ſlaughter, but ſtrength they got by it, I reaſoning thus with my ſelfe, I had fought the Lords battell and henceforth there was layd up a ſure reward for me, and this ſometimes did quiet me till the Lord uttered his voice in his habitation; then came I to ſee with the light of Chriſt, that my iniquities were not yet blotted out; then ſorrow would ſeize upon me, and ſadneſs and paleneſs of face, ſo that I was long kept to the admiring of many, and when at any time I had been drawne out to receive the creature to the abuſing of my body, which I ſee overtooke me, I not being kept diligent and watchfull, the ſevere judgments of God would follow me, and reſt depart from me, then mourning and lamenting was my portion, and ſorrowing, and ſighing, with much heavineſs of ſpirit from the oppreſſed in me did proceed; then much perſwaſion there was in me, that I ſhould joyne with thoſe people called *Anabaptiſts* and did contend much when I came with thoſe that did oppoſe me (for water baptiſme) taking Scriptures to prove the neceſſity of it, but in a ſhort time, I came to ſee the emptineſſe and huſkineſs of it, and ſo became dead to it, and the witneſſe of God the light ariſing in me though the power of it I little knew, my condition in meaſure I was brought to know, and to ſee my ſelfe naked and wretched, then to reading of Scriptures and praying I did much give my ſelfe, & at times much tears & weeeping I was brought into, then looking upon them as tears of repentance there would be ſome quietneſs in my ſpirit, & a calme for ſometime, but that remaining in me ſtrong and unmortified, the Luſt, from whence warres did proceed, peace would not long continue, the light of Chriſt in my conſcience being ſinned againſt, for the vertue and ſtrength of it, I was then ignorant of, but in this my time of ignorance the Lord working power in me his light was not put out though often quenched and ſinned againſt, and this was the Lords love to my ſoule to waken and quicken me morning by morning, and in the night ſeaſon call me

to

to an account with his light, of life & power, with it I now see he hath enlightned every one that cometh into the world, and that with his light Christ Jesus hath and doth, and shall leave all men without excuse eternally before the pure God who is light, and in him is no darknesse at all, but all who have and doth and shall abide in his light, have and doth and shall know, that in it is life and power, and it is able to cleanse and purifie the heart, and abiding in it, the heart, soul & body is kept clean in the sight of the pure God, & so the peace of God comes to be knowne of all those that abide in his light which shines in all consciences though darknesse comprehends it not, yet light comprehends and discovers it in man, although man by his strange inventions seeks to darken the glorious light, as when I was afflicted and tossed to and fro with the slight and cunning of mens inventions, for when many conditions I had passed through as before mentioned, and still the Lord in his love was searching me with his light, and with it I did see sin standing, which caused trouble and restlessnesse, then the doctrine of free grace (so called) was preached to me that Christ had suffered for sinners, and his suffering was free, his mercy free, his love, his grace free, so there was nothing for me to doe, but to believe these things, which Doctrine was soon received by me, for it was pleasing to the fleshly minde as it was then held forth and decleared, by the blinde guides of the world, and now I know that his love, grace, mercy, and light is free, but this must goe with it, abide in his love, in his mercy, in his grace, and light, and here is something to doe contrary to the will of man, and this answers Christs words, who saith, *if ye abide in the vine, &c.* he further exhorting them; *abide in me, and I in you; as the branch cannot beare fruit of it selfe, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye except ye abide in me*, which man to owne I now see he must deny himselfe, and take up the Crosse, and deny that liberty which all the professors of the world are pleading for, who are out of the life, and enemies to the light, so these things above mentioned, being in the time of my ignorance blindnesse, and darknesse, received into my understanding, the worke of God was stopt and the witnesse his light in me, quenched, then carelesnesse, and wildnesse, and unstaiednesse, with me increased, and I could be merry, and sport my selfe in the day time and so grew sottish, darke, and dull, and my profession withered, and my zeale abated, and my stayednesse, and soberneſse was turned into wantonnesse, and laughter, and could plead for it, that it was the liberty of the Saints, to be merry and cheerly in the world, else it might dishoneur the Gospel, and discourage others, and in this condition I was for some yeares, after I had taken a Wife and fell to trading, and much buying and selling, and great acquaintance with man I began to have and to increase in my estate as to the outward, then I grew tall and great in my thoughts, and began to thinke the LOT of my INHERITANCE was in a good place, then

with my fellow-Tradesmen I delighted often to be in Taverns, Inns and drinking-Houses, and often much time and money I spent that way, and thought it my liberty so to do; and some small covering of Profession was still with me, which hid me from the world, as praying and reading in my Family, and going to the chiefest places of Worship so counted, but all this would not hide, nor cover me from the wrath of the Lamb: And now my fellow-Tradesmen, and sometimes companions in wickedness, in excess of drinking, eating, and wicked singing, and idle jestings, and foolish laughter in the day-time, and often in the night season; be warned to flee and shun all foolish laughter, and wantonness, and idle communication, which corrupts the good manners, and wait in the light of Christ, which convinceth you of sin, and of your ungodly deeds, to know the living God, who sometimes you wil talk of, and in words profess him, but in works deny him, for all works of darkness are contrary to the pure God, who if ever you come to know, you must know him a consuming fire to all your idle, filthy, foolish, unclean, corrupt communications, and to all your lusts and pleasuras, which ye at present take delight, and live in; poor hearts! there is a tenderness in me towards you & all men; consider your estates, your living carelesly as to your eternal state, your bodies growing fat with ease and fulness; but enter into your own closets, and let the door be shut, & be quiet & still in your spirits, & with the light of Christ diligently search and see the leanness and starvedness of your souls, and how faint and feeble they are that the pantings and breathings after God from the innocent in you, (which lyeth oppressed) you may come to know, and your present conditions come to see in the light, for really when you come to be searched & found out with the eternal Light of God, Christ Jesus, then *wo to you that laugh now, for ye shall mourn and lament, and your joy and gladness will be turned into sighing and bitter weeping*; for the life of sin & wickedness you have lived in, and still take delight in; this I now know and see in the eternal light of God, that it is your present states and conditions, for it is not long since I was in that state wrth you, which was pleasing to my fleshly minde, though while I was with you in that myrth & delight to the sinful mind, yet the Lord was present to condemn me with his light; and this, if you will deal plainly with your own hearts in particular, with the light of Christ you may come to see the Lord condemning you in the midst of all your mirth, & witnessing with his light in you against your ungodly deeds in the midst of your sportings and rioting; thus it was with me whilest I with you in wickedness did join, which was until neer the time called Michaelmas, in the year 1654. I then journying towards Cambridge, purposing to take my delight at that place called Stubridge-Fair, & hearing of a people in Cambridg called Quakers; I had a great desire to see them, altho they were counted as the off-scouring of the world; some of the people being then prisoners, after my stay one night

night in that place I went to prison to see the despised one of the World, named *Anne Blackely*, who is a Mother in Israel; I seeing her sober stayed Countenance, after some little space began to ask her some questions, which she in discreet and wise manner answered with much tenderness to me, she seeing in the eternal light of God my condition, spake as she was moved, to the witness of God in me, which did soon answer the soundness of her words, and I was brought into much tenderness, and many were the tears that then fell from mine eyes, and really such a condition I was then in as I was never made sensible of before in all the time of my Profession, for I was pierced and wounded, and made sensible of my condition, and exhorted where to wait, which exhortation took deep root in me, it not parting from me day nor night; but to the light of Christ in my conscience I was kept, which brought me into soberness and stayedness; so the intended evil of my Journey I was kept from, and soon after departed out of that Town towards my outward being, which was at Norwich, where I had, and have a wife and tender Babes, who were, and are dear unto me in their places; but the form of my Countenance being changed from laughter and foolish jesting, into soberness and stayedness, caused a change in my wife at that time, she weeping, and crying out, and asking me often what I ayled; for long I lay under judgement, mourning, sighing, & groaning, the innocent in me to be delivered; and pangs took hold on me for the delivering of the Man-child; and then groans and sighs I came really to know, which could not, nor cannot be uttered; and then the Ministration of condemnation, which is glorious in its time, I came to know; and when under the greatest condemnation and judgement I was brought, and sensible of a spirit of burning in me, then had the innocent one in me which never consented to sin, pure joy, peace, and comfort from the Lord, and my members to it was brought into subjection, and so became the members of Christ, and not any more to become the members of an Harlot, neither any more to go a whoring after my lovers, but according to what was made manifest to me, in the light I was made to own the cross, and despise the shame; and in my obedience I did see, and taste, that much coming was the love of God to me, and the Just in me got strength and power; and although many trials and temptations I met with from enemies without & enemies within me, yet through them all I see good brought forth, to the clearing of the innocent, and strengthening of the just which lives by faith; and through the greatest straights and troubles can rejoice; and that above written was my estate and condition for many months together, so that a wonder I was, and amazed they were at me that formerly knew me, & a great noise of my condition went abroad, & many lyes were uttered forth concerning me, as ꝑ I was mad, & bound in my bed, & seven men could not hold me; & many such things was invented by the devil in his children, who are fit instruments for his purpose, who ever hated the

the children of the light, and Christ Jesus who is the light of the world, and hath enlightned every one that cometh into the world, by his children was put to death.

I say, many things was raised and invented of me, as that *I* had given up Trading, and left off my Calling, which thing was utterly false, that they accused me and the truth of, although I walked along the streets about my business in the outward daily. And poor hearts, who make lyes your refuge, this know, that where the truth of God is made manifest in the light of Jesus, and lived in, in the life & power, none can or dare take liberty to idlenes, and slothfulufnes in busines, but every one in their places are made to be faithfull and honest therein, doing what they doe as in the sight of God, & so become blameless to that of God in every mans conscience, and justified in the sight of God, we doing unto all men, as we would that all men should doe unto us, not defrauding, cozening, or cheating any, nor using deceitfull words, to make any to believe a lye, but in plainnes of speech, with fewnes of words, in singlenesse and uprightnes of heart, we are ordered with the light of Christ in our lives and conversation towards all men with whom we have to doe, in this crooked and perverse Generation, So all you that have reviled, and reproached the Lords people, scornfully by you called *Quakers*, it is time for you to stop your mouths, and lye low in the dust, and repent while you have time, and say not in your hearts it will be time enough afterwards, lest the Lord come suddenly in an hour you know not, and sweep you away in your sins, and so you receive your portion with the damned spirits, and kept in the lake of darknes and torment, their habitation, from whence there will be no returning any more to the Land of the living, neither shall a drop of water be granted in the midst of your torments and burnings, to cool your tongues, which hath spoken lyes of the innocent, therefore be warned in your life time, you blind people. Some of the lies which was raised of me, was received by one of your blind guides of this City, and preached of by him in his high place. But the Lord hath put an end to his dayes, as to the life, and his reward is with him, But herein this wicked and rebellious City, who are up in rebellion against the Lord and his chosen elected ones, they gathering about the doors of the innocent: Now see wherein you differ from that wicked City *Sodome*, for idleness and fulness of bread was found in it, and against it, and all wickedness in this City, I am, and a witness doe stand in innocency, and harmlessness, against this lying, evill, inventing, devouring Generation, by whom I am made a mock, a taunt, a by word, and men against me doe set their mouths awry, and am persecuted and reviled, hated, and daily mocked at as I pass the streets, & I patiently bear it, being reviled I intreat, persecuted, I suffer it, and can rejoyce in the midst of all, and through the strength of my God am kept above them all; Glory, glory be given to the pure living God, for ever, Amen; who hath kept me,

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and doth keep me alive in his light of life, from this destroying devouring generation of unreasonable men, of whom the righteous God, in his righteousnes wilbe avenged, and eased of these his adversaries,& this is according to Scriptures which you pretend is your rule, altho your lives, practices,& daily walkings they declare against, & when any of your wickedness is declared against by any servants of the Lord, who dwell in the light, you are presently ready to fall upon perfection, although it be not mentioned by us, you crying out that none can be perfect here, none can be without sinne here, where is there one Scripture that will maintaine these words, this was the Scribes, and pharisees estate, who sought to put the Lamb of God Christ Jesus to death, saith he, *I go away and you shall dye in your sinns*, now you that are crying out, and accusing us for being papists, Consider who are neerer them you, or we, for if there be not a place of purging after death, what will become of you, for into Heaven there shall enter no uncleane thing, nor nothing that worketh abomination, or maketh a lye, and you that plead for these things, look to it in your life time, and be warned, and owne the light of Christ, and it will let you see that the grave addeth no perfection, and as the tree falls so it lyes, and if you dye in your sins, Christ goes away, and whether hee goes ye cannot come, This is to all you who plead for sin, and would live in, and dye in your sins, you must not goe where Christ goes, and this is according to Scriptures, and you that deny to be guided by his light, in your life time, are workers of Iniquity, the word is gone forth *depart yee workers of iniquity into utter darkness, there shall be weeping, wayling, and gnasking of teeth*,& Christ will not know you,& this is according to Scriptures yee scribes and pharisees, what will yee doe if ye dye in your sins, where doth the Scriptures speake of any cleansing after death, and you that are pleading alwayes to live in sin, and none can bee without sin here, how can the words of Christ be owned and received by you, who said unto the woman taken in adultrie, *goe thy way sin no more, and to the impotent man, lest a worse thing come unto thee*, so be warned, for you must be called to an account, and you shall be rewarded according to your workes, and deeds done in the body, and this is according to Scriptures, which are as a cloud of witnesses against you, and witnesseth for the innocent people, scornfully, and reproachfully by you called Quakers, who are brought to witness the truth of them, in their lives and conversations, and therefore are hated of the world, who love their own, & if we were of the world, *the world would love us, but because we are not of the world, therefore the world hates us*, as it was from the begining, so it is now knowa and seen in the light, according as the Scriptures declares, they that are borne after the flesh, persecute those that are borne after the spirit, even so it is unto this day; poore hearts, you are warned and [illegible]nes of God in you will witness for me, and against your ungodly de[illegible]

So though I be counted a foole to the world, and of them hated, it is for Christ sake and my wisdome I counted not too dear to give up unto him, and though a mad man as *Paul* was counted, yet stayed in the light; and speaking the words of soberness unto all men, with whom I have to do, and as one that is dead, but alive unto God; and I counted not my life dear unto him, who hath called me, and hath made known his mighty power in me, whereby I know that he is in me, and I in him, [illegible]med out of the world, and from the Teachers of it, not any lo[illegible]d by them

but in the eternal light of God I do them see & comprehend, & know them to be of that sort spoken of in the Scriptures, who shall & do *lead silly women captive, laden with sin*, & pleading for to live in it, *led away with divers lusts, ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*; but if they are taught to oppose the Light of Christ by the blind guides of the world, who are sensual, having not the spirit, as is made manifest by their works & fruits, they living in pride and covetousness, in envy and malice, haling, and cause to be haled those that are moved of the Lord to witness against their ungodly practises. And now all people who have any soberness and stayedness remaining, & any desire to know the Lord God who have created you, & with his light enlightned you, to the Light of Christ take heed, which reproveth you of sin and evil, although you act it never so secretly; & leave the blinde Guides of the world, & their filthy feigned words deny; for by them they seek to make merchandise of your souls; feed them no longer with dishoneſt gain, least they destroy the simplicity in you, & you perish with them who deny the light of Christ to be sufficient to guide the creature unto God, & call it natural, & so would have a natural Christ, sutable to their natural fleshly minds; but he is a spirit, & cometh from the father of spirits; & all who come to know him, must know him in his light, & worship God in spirit & in truth; & all who are brought into Christs light to wait, know him to be a quickning spirit, & that he is made manifest in flesh to discover & destroy sin in the flesh; this is known to the children of light, but hid from the darkworld who perish in their iniquities, from the wise & prudent, & is revealed to babes & sucklings, even so holy father, for so it seemed good in thy sight. And now a few lines to you all dear friends, who have had a taste of the good Word of God, & of the powers of the world to come, keep in the tast & knowledg, your minds stay'd in the light, & in the eternal stilness to dwel, not striving in your own wisdoms to comprehend the truth, this is not your work, neither will you come to a growth by it; but your work is to stand still in the light, the life to know, & there feed, that ye may see Pharaoh the oppressor, his Chariots & mighty ones overturned and drowned in the Red Sea, and the soul saved, & the creature redeemed out of *Egypt*, & bondage, the promised land you to enjoy, which brings forth all pleasant riches, wch is durable, & fadeth not away.

Dear hearts, fight not in your wils neither strive in your wisdoms, but stand still in the light, & know the battel is the Lords; you that are entred into the war, you being quiet, and patient, and still in your spirits, the Lamb shall get the victory over the uncircumcised Philistines and hard hearted Pharaohs; you being stayed in the light, there is your power, and it will give you victory over the unclean spirits, and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, and in the power and authority of the Lord God known in the light, trample upon them all, that they shal be ashes under your feet; this I know, who am your brother in the eternal truth, and therein stand as a witness against all those that know not God, who am known, and by them scornfully called Quaker. *T. S.*

From my outward being in *Norwich*, the 30. day of the 4. Month. 1656.

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